



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Medication Protocol:  
Dextrose**

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## **DEXTROSE (Medication Protocol)**

### **EMT-INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS**

#### **STANDING ORDER**

### **PARAMEDIC PROVIDERS**

#### **STANDING ORDER**

**CLASS:** Carbohydrate

**PHARMACOLOGY/  
ACTIONS:** The term dextrose is used to describe the six-carbon sugar d-glucose, the principal form of carbohydrate used by the body. 50% dextrose solution is used in emergency care to treat hypoglycemia and in the management of coma of unknown origin

**ONSET/DURATION:** Onset: 1 min / Duration: dependant

**USE IN FIELD/  
INDICATIONS:**

- Altered mental status of unknown origin
- Hypoglycemia
- Seizures
- Head trauma with decreased mental status if unable to check blood glucose
- Hypothermia if unable to take oral nutrition safely (prolonged field setting)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- None if documented or suspected hypoglycemia
- Intracranial hemorrhage
- ICP
- Known or suspected CVA in the absence of hypoglycemia

**SIDE EFFECTS:** Warmth, pain, burning from medication infusion, hyperglycemia, thrombophlebitis

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:** None significant

**ROUTE:** IV, IO

DOSAGE:	ADULT	PEDIATRIC (<45 kg)
	12.5-25 gm slow IV; may be repeated as needed to maintain normal blood glucose	0.5-1 gm/kg IV/IO > 1 month: 2-4 ml/kg 25% (D25) Neonate: 5-10 ml/kg 12.5% (D12.5) may be repeated as needed to maintain normal blood glucose

**PREGNANCY SAFETY:** Category C – give only if potential benefits justifies risk to fetus

**COMMENTS:** Extravasation may cause tissue necrosis; use large vein and aspirate occasionally to ensure route patency.  
**Draw blood sample and check BGL prior to administration if possible.**  
 Large bore IV catheter is preferred. Larger than 18 g if possible.